

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00871 281436Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 A-01

OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 EB-07 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /097 W

----- 065689

O P 281230Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8358

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDIRA

AMZMBASSY KUWAIT 6355

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00871 281436Z

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0871

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINTS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: THE MOP-UP CONTINUES

REF: BEIRUT 848 (1230Z)

1. SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT CONTINUES MUCH-IMPROVED, ALTHOUGH MINOR INCIDENTS STILL OCCUR. SEVERAL BOMBINGS TOOK PLACE IN THE CITY OVERNIGHT AND SOME SCATTERED SNIPING IN CITY CENTER WAS REPORTED. ROBBERY AND LOOTING ARE STILL ENDEMIC, PARTICULARLY ON OUTSKIRTS AND IN SUBURBS OF CAPITAL; FOREMOST DAIRY PLANT ON SOUTHERN EDGE OF TOWN HAS APPARENTLY BEEN LOOTED RECENTLY. ALL STREETS IN BEIRUT ARE OPEN, AT LEAST THEORETICALLY, AND BULLDOZING OF BARRICADES IS SLATED TO BEGIN JAN 29.

2. MAJOR INCIDENT NIGHT JAN 27-28 WAS AMBUSH OF LEBANESE ARMY ESCORT NEAR MASNA' ON BEIRUT-DAMASCUS REOAD. AT LEAST TWO LEBANESE SOLDIERS, WHO WERE RETURNING TO BEIRUT AFTER HAVING CONDUCTED SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM TO SYRIAN BORDER, WERE KILLED WHEN UNIT CAME UNDER FIRE FROM LEBANESE ARMY DESERTERS LED BY RENEGADE LT. AHMED AL KHATIB. KHATIB, WHO DESERTED TO ESTABLISH HIS OWN LEBANESE ARAB ARMY IN BEKAA, MAY HAVE AFFILIATION WITH PALESTINIAN "REJECTIONIST" FORCES PRESENT IN THAT AREA, BUT WE UNDERSTAND ZUHAYR MOHSEN OF SYRIAN-SPONSORED SA'IQA IS ON THE WARPATH AGAINST KHATIB. ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS OF TRIPARTITE HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS JAN 27, DECISION WAS TAKEN TO APPREHEND KHATIB GANG AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR QABB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00871 281436Z

ILYAS TENSIONS OF LAST FEW DAYS AND TRY THEM IN SPECIAL FIELD TRIBUNALS. SUCH INCIDENTS HIGHLIGHT UNSETTLED CONDITIONS IN BEKAA, AND GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE WILL TURN ITS ATTENTION JAN 28 TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF SECURITY THERE.

3. POLITICAL ACTIVITY RELATING TO EVENTUAL SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS CONTINUES. LEBANESE CABINET IS SCHEDULED

TO MEET JAN 28 AND THERE IS SPECULATION THAT TEN-POINT POLITICAL AGREEMENT WILL BE ONE MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. PRIMIN KARAME AND PRES FRANGIE WERE CLOSTED TOGETHER FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS JAN 27 IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH PROBABLY CENTERED ON HANDLING OF CABINET SESSION AND FURTHER STEOPS TOWARD SOLUTION. WE STILL BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT RE POLITICAL DEAL WILL COME BEFORE FRANGIE MAKES HIS ANTICIPATED VISIT TO DAMASCUS. KHADDAM IS EXPECTED BACK IN BEIRUT TODAY, FOLLOWING A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR STAY IN SYRIA, AND THERE IS COMMON EXPECTATION THAT TIMING OF FRANGIE-ASAD SUMMIT WILL BE MADE AFTER KHADDAM'S RETURN TO LEBANON. OUR BEST GUESS REMAINS THAT FRANGIE WILL GO TO DAMASCUS SOMETIME THIS WEEK.

4. MEANWHILE, SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN BEIRUT CONTINUE CONTACTS AND DONSULTATIONS WITH ALL AND SUNDRY. KHADDAM MET JAN 27 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GREEK CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT COMMUNITIES IN LEBANON. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS THAT KHADDAM MADE TWO SIGINIFICANT POINTS: (A) SYRIANS WILL ONLY REMAIN IN LEBANON UNTIL STABILITY IS RESTORED; AND (B) SYRIANS WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT PLESTINIANS ABIDE BY AGREEMENT REACHED. QUESTIONED ABOUT ATTITUDE OF PALESTINIAN "REJECTIONISTS," KHADDAM SAID SYRIANS HAD COMMITMENT FROM "REJECTIONISTS" THAT THEY WILL REPECT AGREEMENT. IF THEY RENEGE, HE REPORTEDLY ASSERTED, SYRIA AND THE PLO "MODERATES" WILL BRING THEM ALONG BY FORCE. SYRIANS APPARENTLY ARE GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO ASSURE EVERYONE THAT THEY DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO REMAIN IN LEBANON INDEFINITELY. AMERICAN JOURNALIST, WHO SPOKE WITH ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD THREE DAYS AGO, TOLD EMBOFF JAN 27 THAT RIAD STATED SYRIA HAD INFORMED LEAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 00871 281436Z

THAT IT WOULD BE IN LEBANON FOR MINIMUM OF TEN DAYS, BUT PROBABLY FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

LAMBRAKIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00871
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760032-0692
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760115/aaaaamtr.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 848
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE MOP-UP CONTINUES
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006